at summit of column and the inferior ovary. The column (or trigger) is a sensitive part moving elastically on touch to rest between labellum and posterior lobes before resetting. Hence these plants have been named trigger plants (Brickson 1958).

Stylidium tenellum was collected consecutively during 1986 and 1987 but only from a small patch in Devarayanadurga and was not found in any other location in the district. Considering the restricted occurrence in south India it would be interesting to study the dispersal mechanism and geographical distribution of these plants.

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V. BHASKAR
January 7, 1991 C.G. KUSHALAPPA

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35. *PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS* LINN. — A NEW RECORD FOR NEPAL

On the way to Kathmandu from Birganj in July 1989, I located an American weed, *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn., a member of the family Compositae, growing on either side of the road. Subsequently, I collected this weed from Kathmandu proper. On critical examination of the available literature on the flora of Nepal (including Flora of Kathmandu Valley, 1986), it was found to be a new record for the flora of Nepal.

It is probably a migrant from India. A number of publications and discussions have already been made on its introduction and occurrence in India. The recent two review articles by Bennet *et al.* (1978, *Indian J. Forest 1:* 128-131) and Naskar and Guha Bakshi (1985, *J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 7:* 741-748) may be referred for further details.

The specimens of *P. hysterophorus* collected from Kathmandu have been housed in the Herbarium of Post Graduate Centre of Botany, Gaya College, Gaya. This is the first report of its occurrence in Nepal. A short description, citation, distribution, toxic effects, phenology, common names of this taxon have been given below to facilitate easy identification.

Parthenium hysterophorus Linn., Sp. Pl. 988. 1753; Hill, Veget. Syst. 3: t. 21.1761; Hoffmann in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pfam. 4 (5): 114. 1889; Rao, J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 54: 218. 1956; Reed, Phytologia 10: 338. 1964; Mahesh., Curr. Sci. 35 (7): 181.1966; Vaid & Naithani, Ind. For. 96 (10): 791. 1970; Adams, Fl. Pl. Jamaica 751. 1972.

An erect, profusely branched herb, up to 1.5 m tall. Stems longitudinally grooved, angular, hairy. Leaves alternate, 2-10 cm long and up to 5 cm broad, pinnately or bipinnately dissected; segments linear, entire, pubescent, acute; smaller and undivided in the region of inflorescence. Heads many-peduncled, in panicles, radiate, heterogamous. Involucral bracts biseriate; outer bracts 5, ovate, acute, prominently nerved; inner bracts 5, obovate, transparent, subtending a female floret with two male florets on either side. Receptacle flat, paleaceous. Outer florets: 5, female; inner few male. Female florets: jug-shaped, white; corolla cup-shaped with indistinct lobes enclosing style; stigma bifurcated. Inner florets: all male, yellowish; corolla infundibuliform; stamens exerted. Achenes obovate, black, crowned by persistent remnants of corolla, appendages and styles; pappus of 2 awns.

Distribution: A native of tropical America, from Florida to Texas. It has also been collected from the

West Indies and some parts of South Africa. In India, the species has now become naturalised not only in plains but has also invaded the hilly regions of Assam, Jammu and north-west Himalayas.

The weed causes allergic types of diseases such as asthma, fever and dermatitis and is dangerous to human beings and crops.

Common name: Congress grass, Gajar grass.
Flowering and fruiting: Practically all the year round but mostly from August to December.
Specimens examined: Kathmandu, *K.K. Mishra* 5010, 5011.

November 17, 1990 K.K. MISHRA

36. OCCURRENCE OF *CLERODENDRUM WALLICHII* MERR. (VERBENACEAE) IN SOUTH INDIA

(With a text-figure)

Fig. 1. *Clerodendrum wallichii* Merr.

During the course of botanical explorations in some parts of the Western Ghats, we collected an interesting species of *Clerodendrum* from Vythiri river banks, Wynad district, Kerala, namely *C. wallichii* Merr. A perusal of literature shows that it is distributed in the northern parts of India to Burma and often grown in gardens for its elegant pendulous inflorescence.

Clerodendrum wallichii Merr. in Journ. Arn. Arb. 33: 220, 1952; Backer Fl. Java 2: 611, 1965; D.B. Deb Fl. Trip. State 2: 109, 1983. *Clerodendrum nutans* Wall. *ex* D. Don Prodr. Fl. Nepal 103, 1825 *non* Jack 1820; Clarke in F.B.I. 4: 591, 1885.
Specimens examined: Wynad, Kerala, Pradeep 6036 (CALI).

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A.K. PRADEEP
February 19, 1990 K.M. JAYARAM

37. *DIDYMOCARPUS PYGMAEA* CLARKE (GESNERIACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FROM MAHARASHTRA

During frequent visits to various localities of Bhandara district (Maharashtra) I collected *Didymocarpus pygmaea* Clarke from Mahadev hills of Amgaon tehsil. This species has not been reported from Maharashtra (Cooke 1901-1908, Mahabale 1987) being known so far from Madhya Pradesh (Mukherjee 1984, Verma *et al.* 1985), Madras (Gamble 1957), Bihar and Orissa (Haines 1961). This paper records for the first time the occurrence of *Didymocarpus pygmaea* Clarke from Maharashtra. Voucher specimens are housed in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, Bhawbhuti Mahavidyalaya, Amgaon.

Didymocarpus pygmaea Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 345. 1884; D.C., Monogr. Phan. 5: 82. 1885; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. B S I reprint 2(1): 168. 1960; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras B. S. I. reprint 2: 694, 1957; Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa B. S. I. reprint 2: 679, 1961.

Plants tiny herbs; stem 4 to 25 mm tall, slender, curved, bearing one leaf at its apex. Leaf elliptic-ovate, 2.5 x 2 cm or much smaller, oblique, obtuse at both ends, thin; petiole 0-2 mm long. Pedicels few, 5-8 mm long, tubular. Stamens two, fertile, two, linear rudiments, glabrous; anther cell two, ovate, oblique, scarcely